

United States District Courts

Most federal cases are initially tried and decided in the United States District Courts, the federal courts of general trial jurisdiction. There are 94 courts in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the territories of Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands. With the exception of the territorial courts, all district court judges are appointed for life by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. In each district, the judge who has served on the court the longest and who is under 65 years of age is designated as the chief judge. The chief judge has administrative duties in addition to a caseload. Within each district, the United States Bankruptcy Court hears and decides petitions of individuals and businesses seeking relief from bankruptcy. Bankruptcy judges are appointed by the court of appeals for a term of 14 years. The judges of each district appoint one or more magistrate judges, who discharge many of the ancillary duties of the district judges. There are both full-time and part-time magistrate judge positions, and these positions are assigned to the district courts according to caseload criteria. A full-time magistrate judge serves a term of eight years; a part-time magistrate judge's term is four years.

United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama

Frank M. Johnson, Jr. Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse,
One Church Street, Suite B - 110, Montgomery, AL 36104
P.O. Box 711, Montgomery, AL 36101
Tel: (334) 954-3600
Internet: www.almd.uscourts.gov

Number of Judgeships: 3

Areas Covered: Counties of Autauga, Barbour, Bullock, Butler, Chambers, Chilton, Coffee, Coosa, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Elmore, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Montgomery, Pike, Randolph, Russell and Tallapoosa

Court Staff

District Clerk **Debra P. Hackett** (334) 954-3600
E-mail: Debbie_Hackett@almd.uscourts.gov
Chief Deputy Clerk **Yvonne Goodloe** (334) 954-3600
E-mail: Yvonne_Goodloe@almd.uscourts.gov
Chief Probation Officer **Leslie Craft** (334) 954-3226
P.O. Box 39, Montgomery, AL 36102

Chambers of Chief Judge Mark E. Fuller

Frank M. Johnson, Jr. Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse,
One Church Street, A-300, Montgomery, AL 36104
Tel: (334) 954-3640 Fax: (334) 954-3649

Mark E. Fuller

Chief Judge

Date of Birth: December 27, 1958
Education: Alabama 1982 BS, 1985 JD
Began Service: December 2, 2002
Appointed By: President George W. Bush

Government: Chief Assistant District Attorney, 12th Judicial Circuit, State of Alabama (1996-1997); District Attorney, 12th Judicial Circuit, State of Alabama (1997-2002)

Legal Practice: Associate, Cassidy, Fuller & Marsh (1985-1986); Partner, Cassidy, Fuller & Marsh (1986-1996)

Staff

Law Clerk **Barbara Wells** (334) 954-3640

Chambers of District Judge Myron H. Thompson

Frank M. Johnson, Jr. Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse,
One Church Street, Montgomery, AL 36104
Tel: (334) 954-3650

Myron H. Thompson

District Judge

Date of Birth: 1947
Education: Yale 1969 BA, 1972 JD
Began Service: September 29, 1980
Appointed By: President Jimmy Carter

Government: Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, United States Department of Justice (1972-1974)

Legal Practice: Partner, Thompson & Faulk (1979-1980)

Current Memberships: Alabama Bar Association; Alabama Lawyers Association; American Bar Association; National Bar Association

Staff

Law Clerk **Danielle Goldstein** (334) 954-3652
Law Clerk **Daniel Korobkin** (334) 954-3654
Law Clerk **Tashwanda Pinchback** (334) 954-3653
Secretary **Lillian C. Thomas** (334) 954-3651
E-mail: lillian_thomas@almd.uscourts.gov
Education: Fort Valley State 1963 BS

Chambers of District Judge W. Keith Watkins

Frank M. Johnson, Jr. Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse,
One Church Street, Montgomery, AL 36104
Tel: (334) 954-3600

W. Keith Watkins

District Judge

Education: Auburn 1973 BS; Alabama 1976 JD
Began Service: December 30, 2005
Appointed By: President George W. Bush

Staff

Court Reporter **Risa Entrekin** (334) 954-3600

Chambers of Senior Judge Truman M. Hobbs

Frank M. Johnson, Jr. Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse,
One Church Street, Montgomery, AL 36104
Tel: (334) 954-3968

Truman M. Hobbs

Senior Judge

Date of Birth: 1921
Education: North Carolina 1942 AB; Yale 1948 LLB
Began Service: April 14, 1980
Appointed By: President Jimmy Carter
Political Affiliation: Democrat

Clerkships: Law Clerk The Honorable Hugo Black, Supreme Court of the United States (1948-1949)

Government: Chairman, Alabama Unemployment Appeal Board (1952-1958)

Legal Practice: Partner, Hobbs, Copeland, Franco & Screws (1949-1980)

Military Service: United States Navy (1942-1946)

Current Memberships: Alabama Bar Association; American Bar Association; American College of Trial Lawyers; American Trial Lawyers Association; International Academy of Trial Lawyers; Montgomery County Bar Association

Chambers of Senior Judge Ira DeMent

Frank M. Johnson, Jr. Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse,
One Church Street, Montgomery, AL 36104
P.O. Box 2149, Montgomery, AL 36102
Tel: (334) 954-3680

Ira DeMent

Senior Judge

Date of Birth: 1931
Education: Alabama 1953 AB, 1958 JD
Began Service: April 15, 1992
Appointed By: President George H.W. Bush
Political Affiliation: Republican

Academic: Instructor, Jones Law School (1962-1964); Instructor, United States Infantry School (1962-1963); Instructor, Montgomery Police Academy (1964-1977); Lecturer in Constitutional Law, Alabama Police Academy (1971-1975); Adjunct Faculty, The New College, University of Alabama (1974-1975); Adjunct Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Alabama (1975-1992); Lecturer, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University (1977)

Clerkships: Law Clerk The Honorable Pelham J. Merrill, Alabama Supreme Court (1958-1959)

Government: Assistant United States Attorney, Middle District of Alabama, United States Department of Justice (1959-1961); Assistant City Attorney, Police and Fire Departments, City of Montgomery, Alabama (1965-1969); Special Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, United States Department of Justice (1966-1969); United States Attorney, Middle District of Alabama, United States Department of Justice (1969-1977)

Judicial: Judge, Wake Island Court of Appeals (1985)

Legal Practice: Partner, Whitesell & DeMent; Partner, Whitesell, Alton & DeMent (1962-1965); Partner, DeMent & Wise (1982-1987)

Military Service: Major General (Retired), United States Army (1953-1974)

Current Memberships: Alabama State Bar; American Bar Association; American Inn of Court Chapter; District of Columbia Bar; Federal Bar Association; Montgomery County Bar Association

Staff

Staff Attorney **Laura Wright** (334) 954-3680
Education: Mercer 1994 JD
Judicial Assistant **Bonnie Lane** (334) 954-3680

Chambers of Senior Judge W. Harold Albritton III

U.S. Courthouse Complex, One Church Street, Montgomery, AL 36104
P.O. Box 629, Montgomery, AL 36101
Tel: (334) 954-3710 Fax: (334) 954-3615

W. Harold Albritton III

Senior Judge

Date of Birth: 1936
Education: Alabama 1959 AB, 1960 LLB
Began Service: May 1991
Appointed By: President George H.W. Bush

Corporate: Director, The Commercial Bank (1983-1985); Director, First Alabama Bank (1985-1991)

Judicial: Chief Judge, United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama (1998-2004)

Legal Practice: Partner, Albrittons, Givhan & Clifton (and predecessor firms) (1962-1991)

Military Service: United States Army (1960-1962); United States Army Reserve (1962-1968)

Current Memberships: Alabama Bar Foundation; Alabama State Bar; American Bar Foundation; American College of Trial Lawyers; American Inns of Court - Montgomery Chapter; American Judicature Society; United States District Judges Association

Chambers of Senior Judge W. Harold Albritton III *continued*

Staff

Law Clerk **Lisa Harden** (334) 954-3710
Education: Rhodes 1993 BA; Alabama 1996 JD
Law Clerk **Daniel Harrell** (334) 954-3710
Education: Cumberland 2006 JD
Judicial Assistant **Elna B. Behrman** (334) 954-3710
Education: Troy State 1998 BA

Chambers of Chief Magistrate Judge Charles S. Coody

U.S. Courthouse, One Church Street, Montgomery, AL 36104
Tel: (334) 954-3700 Fax: (334) 954-3709
E-mail: Charles_Coody@almd.uscourts.gov

Charles S. Coody

Chief Magistrate Judge

Date of Birth: 1946
Education: Spring Hill 1968 BS; Alabama 1975 JD
Began Service: May 1, 1987
Term Expires: April 30, 2011

Clerkships: Law Clerk The Honorable T. Embry, Alabama Supreme Court (1975)

Government: General Counsel, Alabama State Board of Education (1978-1987)

Legal Practice: Associate, Smith, Bowman, Thaggard, Crook & Culpepper (1976-1978)

Military Service: United States Army (1968-1972)

Current Memberships: Alabama State Bar Association; Hugh Maddox Inn of Court

Staff

Career Law Clerk **Wynn Dee Allen** (334) 954-3700
E-mail: wynn_allen@almd.uscourts.gov
Education: Alabama 1997 JD
Career Law Clerk **Corrie Long** (334) 954-3700
E-mail: corrie_p_long@almd.uscourts.gov
Education: Georgia 1988 JD

Chambers of Magistrate Judge Vanzetta Penn McPherson

Frank M. Johnson, Jr. U.S. Courthouse Complex, One Church Street,
Montgomery, AL 36104
P.O. Box 1629, Montgomery, AL 36102
Tel: (334) 954-3730 Fax: (334) 954-3735

Vanzetta Penn McPherson

Magistrate Judge

Date of Birth: 1947
Education: Howard U 1969 BS;
Columbia 1971 MA, 1974 JD
Began Service: April 6, 1992
Term Expires: 2008



Academic: Adjunct Lecturer, Evidence, University of Alabama Law School (1978)

Government: Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, United States Department of Justice (1975-1978)

Judicial: Magistrate, Montgomery County Family Court

Legal Practice: Associate, Hughes, Hubbard & Reed (1974-1975); Private Practice (1978-1992)

(continued on next page)